

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 25, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 184

Introduced by Assembly Member Hertzberg

(Principal coauthor: Senator Burton)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Aroner, Bock, Calderon, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cedillo, Corbett, Correa, Davis, Ducheny, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Gallegos, Havice, Honda, Jackson, Keeley, Knox, Kuehl, Lempert, Longville, Lowenthal, Machado, Mazzoni, Migden, Nakano, Papan, Reyes, Romero, Scott, Shelley, Steinberg, Strom-Martin, Thomson, Torlakson, Villaraigosa, Vincent, Washington, Wayne, Wiggins, Wildman, and Wright)

August 23, 2000

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 184—Relative to Demonstration Projects under the State Children’s Health Insurance Program.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 184, as amended, Hertzberg. Demonstration Projects under the State Children’s Health Insurance Program.

This measure would urge the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to apply for a demonstration project under the State Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, In 1997, Congress established the State
2 Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to
3 provide health coverage to low income, uninsured
4 children meeting certain eligibility criteria; and

5 WHEREAS, California implemented the SCHIP with
6 the enactment of the Healthy Families Program
7 (Chapter 623, Statutes of 1997) and eligibility expansions
8 under the Medi-Cal Program (Chapters 624 and 626,
9 Statutes of 1997). Together, these programs provide
10 health coverage to children with family incomes of up to
11 250 percent of the federal poverty level; and

12 WHEREAS, The Healthy Families program has
13 enrolled over 330,000 children; and

14 WHEREAS, Many of the parents of children enrolled
15 in Healthy Families and Medi-Cal do not have health
16 coverage; and

17 WHEREAS, The federal Department of Health and
18 Human Services issued a guidance letter on July 31, 2000,
19 which allows states to conduct demonstration projects
20 under the SCHIP; and

21 WHEREAS, The letter authorizes projects that, among
22 other things, provide coverage for parents of children
23 enrolled in SCHIP and fund public health initiatives
24 serving all low-income children; and

25 WHEREAS, California has lower rates of job-based
26 insurance and higher uninsured rates than the rest of the
27 United States and the percentage of uninsured persons in
28 California has been increasing over time; and

29 WHEREAS, One-third of Californians without health
30 coverage report that they did not seek medical care when
31 they needed it because of the cost, that the uninsured
32 have poorer health status than those with coverage, and
33 that the uninsured have significantly lower rates of
34 receiving recommended preventative care than those
35 with coverage; and

36 WHEREAS, The federal government would contribute
37 two-thirds of the cost of coverage under the
38 demonstration projects; and

39 WHEREAS, Most states, including California, are not
40 projected to spend the full amount of their federal

1 allocation for the SCHIP on coverage of eligible
2 uninsured children; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
4 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature urges the
5 Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to apply for a
6 demonstration project under the SCHIP by November
7 15, 2000, and that the application at least include a
8 proposal for covering parents of children enrolled in
9 California's SCHIP and a proposal for public health
10 initiatives providing services to all low income children;
11 and be it further

12 *Resolved,* That the Managed Risk Medical Insurance
13 Board prepare the demonstration project proposal in
14 consultation with the State Department of Health
15 Services; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
17 transmit a suitably prepared copy of this resolution to the
18 author for appropriate distribution.

